



Give peace a chance

Locals congregate downtown to speak against U.S. military involvement in Syria



BRIAN PRESCOTT / THE BREEZE

Community members gathered by Court Square Monday night against the ongoing violence in Syria and spoke out against U.S. military involvement.

By MARK OVERSTREET
The Breeze

More than 150 people gathered outside of Court Square Monday night to voice their concerns about the proposed military intervention in Syria.

"Let the people be heard!" one person from the crowd shouted.

"Syria needs prayers not bombs!" another said.

A congressional vote was scheduled for Wednesday, but Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has delayed the vote to allow diplomatic efforts to play out in the coming days.

At 7 p.m. sharp, the crowd hushed as Earl Martin, a local peace activist and carpenter, addressed the crowd.

"Tonight starting at 7 p.m., 165 places around the country are holding vigils just like this one," Martin said, "and we all share the same goal: to voice our concerns about this proposed military action."

Applause followed from the combination of college students, war veterans, activists, parents and community leaders.

Martin was a carpenter in Vietnam during the war, and said that when he thinks of proposed military strikes, he's reminded of his time there.

"Collateral damage has stained our hearts," he said. "We need to come up with more imaginative ways, more effective ways and less violent ways to deal with this conflict."

He stressed that violence is not the answer, an ideal that everyone in attendance agreed

with.

Martin called it a people's gathering. A diverse group of priests, peace advocates and other members of the community gathered to share their concerns and honor the fallen in not just the Syrian conflict and the Iraq war, but of previous wars as well.

Evan Knappenberger served in Iraq from 2003 to 2007 as an intelligence analyst. He was only 20 years old when he was deployed.

"When I went to Iraq, I received no cultural or language training from the military," he said. "I was in total darkness and unprepared, but I had power over people's lives."

Knappenberger said he didn't think the federal government handled Iraq the right

see SYRIA, page 3

Staunton man gets 40 years

Chaplin pleads guilty to fatally shooting Harrisonburg man



COURTESY OF HPD

On Dec. 23, Dallas Chaplin fatally shot Benjamin Graessle in the breezeway of an apartment building in The Commons.

Yesterday, Dallas Chaplin, 20, of Staunton pleaded guilty and was sentenced 40 years in prison.

On Dec. 23 around 1 a.m., police arrived at 895 Port Republic Road and discovered Benjamin Graessle, 20, of Harrisonburg lying unresponsive after being shot in the breezeway of an apartment building in The Commons. Graessle was later pronounced dead.

Witnesses say that Chaplin had been involved in a fight with Graessle's friend before he shot Graessle.

Chaplin was arrested on Dec. 27 and charged with the nonviolent possession by felony of a firearm, use of a firearm in commission of a felony and first degree murder.

His original sentence was 80 years, but 40 years were suspended.

-staff report

Speaker leads workshop on sexual identity

Gender labels redefined, re-analyzed

By IJ CHAN
The Breeze

Gender and sexual orientation labels don't define Robyn Ochs.

"I am not a bisexual," she said. "I am a person, and I identify as bisexual."

Ochs is a travelling activist, writer and speaker who visits college campuses around the country to get students thinking about how sexual orientation and gender labels affect the way they or others view them.

About 45 people gathered in the Festival Allegheny Room for Ochs' workshop on Tuesday night, which was sponsored by Madison Equality. Ochs began by asking the group to brainstorm as many different terms to describe sexual orientation as well as gender identity labels.

Some of the sexual orientation labels included "gay," "pansexual," "hetero-flexible," as well as words like "fag" and "dyke," while some gender identity terms included "transsexual," "butch" "cisgendered."

"These are not words that you probably learned in high school," Ochs said. "These are words that you may not have even heard in college, even if you've been here for awhile."

The group was then split up into two teams — "kiwis" and "oranges." Ochs had each person choose and explore the disadvantages and advantages of one sexual orientation or gender identity label and then participate in a discussion with a member of the other team.

Freshman biology major Logan Wasser chose to explore the word "gay." Wasser said he likes how the word is synonymous with the word "happy," but he thinks people often use it in a negative way.

"People will say things like, 'Oh, that's so gay,' and that's not what they mean. Back in the day, in high school, I used to just let it slide, because you don't really want to stand up against what people do," Wasser said. "Now I usually just give people a look like,

"I am not a bisexual. I am a person and I identify as bisexual."

Robyn Ochs
Traveling speaker, activist and writer

'are you serious?'

After the exchange, Ochs asked each pair to join with three other pairs and form a larger group. Each group was given a piece of paper to collectively write down all the disadvantages and advantages of the labels they discussed.

Each group then presented their list to the rest of the crowd.

Disadvantages were shared first. Many of the groups had overlapping ideas, describing labels as "confusing" and prone to negative stereotypes and

see IDENTITY, page 3

SGA prepares to fund organizations

Leaders hope to diversify clubs that receive money

By ERIC GRAVES
The Breeze

It takes a lot of money to fund JMU's 278 organizations, and the Student Government Association has the resources to help.

Each year, the SGA receives a certain amount of money in a contingency fund to be used for aiding registered organizations in putting on events around the school.

Student Body President Jake Jedlicka, a senior history and political science major, said that the fund is one of the main things SGA does to be involved directly with student organizations.

"If you have a thought or an idea that your club wants to do, this is designed to help you achieve that," Jedlicka said. "That's what our job really is, students get that extra last step in."

SGA finance chair Aaron Brown, a junior political science and public policy and administration major said the contingency fund for this year is about \$78,000. Any registered organization can apply for up to \$3,000 at one time.

In past years, the contingency fund has been as low as \$40,000 for the school year. Jedlicka said that recently some groups have cut back on their own budgets to give more money.

"There is a lump sum given out and divided up," he said. "This year, UPB dropped a couple thousand in their budget to give more money to the contingency."

Each organization seeking money from the contingency fund must apply at least four weeks before their

Contingency funds can pay for:



JILLIAN PAUL / THE BREEZE

scheduled event and present a Power-Point slide detailing the expenses and why they deserve the money.

Shevy Chaganti, a senior international affairs and Spanish double major and SGA's contingency liaison, explained that each organization's event has to be approved by the SGA finance committee and the SGA senate.

"We had a great show of smaller clubs and newer clubs," Chaganti said. "We've been really trying to promote that and diversify the clubs that receive money."

On Tuesday, the Latino Student Alliance presented to the SGA and became the first club to receive funding from SGA contingency fund for this school year.

Anthony Galeano is a junior computer information systems major and a member of the executive board of LSA and said the money from the SGA is a relief.

"With the amount of work and effort we've put into this event, we're really thankful that they were able to help us out," Galeano said. "This is going to create a positive memory for the JMU community."

Galeano said in past years groups could apply so far in advance that the money would be gone by the time smaller groups applied.

"An event, conference, outreach, series, guest speakers, we cover all of those things," Chaganti said. "If an organization gets funding one year, they are not guaranteed to get funding each year."

Chaganti said that there is little-to-no competition between the clubs for money.

"We have almost \$78,000," she said. "We're happy to start giving it out to clubs."

CONTACT Eric Graves at gravesem@dukes.jmu.edu.



Friday
mostly sunny
73°/47°



Saturday
sunny
71°/48°



Sunday
partly cloudy
78°/57°

EDITORS Dylan Garner & Kortney Frederick

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Thursday, September 12, 2013

2

The Breeze

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MISSION

The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in First Amendment rights.

Published Monday and Thursday mornings, The Breeze is distributed throughout James Madison University and the local Harrisonburg community. Single copies of The Breeze are distributed free of charge. Additional copies are available for 50 cents by contacting our business office. Comments and complaints should be addressed to Sean Cassidy, editor.

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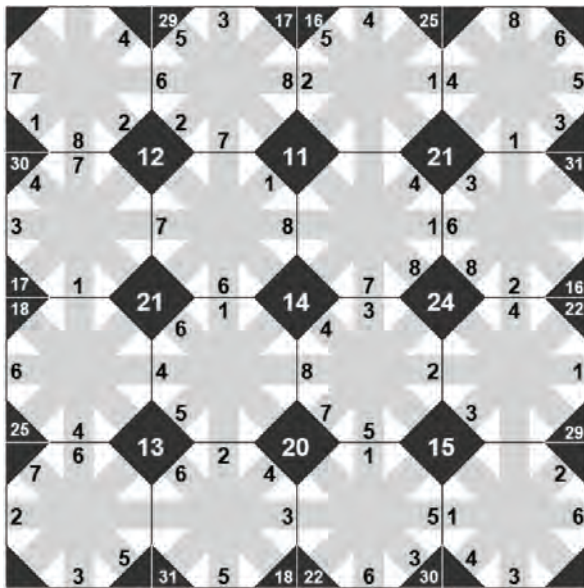
- In the Sept. 9 life article "Ambassador of downtown," Drew Thomas Johnson was listed as 25 years old. He is actually 24 years old.

press **play**



Sophomore Kaitlin Tinsley thinks she deserved to be paid more than the current minimum wage at her fast-food job. Find out others' opinions on Quad Talk at breezejmu.org/multimedia.

Introducing the OCTO puzzle



Number of numbers provided = 71 (Easy)

DOUG JOHNSON / OCTO-PUZZLE.COM

The goal of an OCTO puzzle is to place the numbers 1 to 8 in each of the octagons without repeating a number in any octagon, row, column or diagonal.

The number in each diamond is the sum of the four numbers around the diamond. Numbers around diamonds can repeat.

The numbers in the triangles at the ends of a diagonal are the sum of the numbers in that diagonal (7 + 8 + 6 + 3 + 2 + 5 = 31). Remember that numbers in the diagonals cannot repeat.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

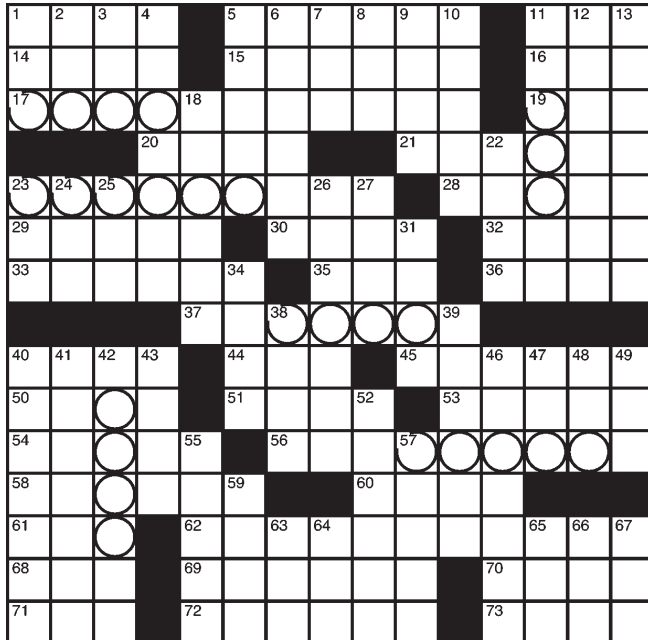
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Meter site
5 After Chicago, the most populous Illinois city
11 Cave dweller
14 Atlas section
15 Adds excitement to, with "up"
16 Syr. neighbor
17 Scrooge's underpaid clerk
19 Fed. property manager
20 Lotto-like game
21 Take down a few pegs
23 Frighten off
28 First host of "America's Got Talent"
29 the cloth
30 Senseless
32 Piano concerto highlights
33 Not impressed
35 Lab subj.
36 Entry-level pos.
37 Reading in an unruly class?
40 Morse's rank: Abbr.
44 30-day mo.
45 Combed (through)
50 Toi et moi
51 Time, in Germany
53 North of Mexico
54 Hit ___: run into trouble
56 Forest shade
58 Shape of Michigan's Lower Peninsula
60 Reversals, slangily
61 Memorable period
62 Light lunch (and a hint to this puzzle's circled letters)
68 Hill VIP
69 For hire to sire
70 Tibetan priest
71 His, to Henri
72 Bottom-of-the-line
73 Learning experience?

DOWN

- 1 Part of a pickup line



By Peter A. Collins

- 2 Troupe for troops: Abbr.
3 Bone in a cage
4 Auditorium late-comers' seating
5 Yoga pose
6 Above Manhattan's 59th Street, say
7 Ocsek of the Cars
8 Glaswegian's "Geel"
9 Tim or Tara of Hollywood
10 Fall flower
11 Divas have them
12 Goes after
13 It may be rapid
18 Illegal smoke, quaintly
22 Southwest sight
23 Rice rival, briefly
24 Axe
25 Collection of literary odds and ends
26 "The Sound of Music" setting
27 Interactive party song
31 Some lighters
34 "In Her Shoes" co-star
38 Page with views

Monday's puzzle solved

B	A	M	A	S	T	U	C	K	B	R	A	G
I	R	O	N	U	R	S	A	E	R	E	I	N
S	O	N	G	M	O	U	R	N	E	C	R	U
Q	U	I	E	T	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H
U	N	C	L	E	P	R	E	P	A	R	C	
E	D	A	S	N	E	R	L	A	B	R	E	A
				T	E	A	M	S		A	G	A
U	N	S	P	O	K	E	N	P	R	A	Y	E
H	O	L	E		S	O	A	K	S			
O	P	I	N	E	S	R	O	T	H	I	R	A
H	E	P		E	L	I	E		E	I	G	E
		S	I	L	E	N	T	P	A	R	T	N
S	O	H	O		E	T	H	E	R		S	O
K	N	O	W		T	R	I	C	K		U	R

- 39 Trace amounts
40 Really botched up
41 "Not on your life!"
42 Beach acquisitions
43 Hurdle for a jr.
46 Lawn sign
47 Roman numeral?
48 Le Tour de France time
49 Kit's home
52 Make even, to a carpenter
55 Pass, but not with flying colors
57 Buddy
59 Chris of "The Good Wife"
63 Flint-to-Detroit dir.
64 Depot: Abbr.
65 SoCal destination
66 Marcus Welby's gp.
67 Block

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Light in a dark situation

U. Va. student creates app that helps students feel safer on and off campus



JILLIAN PAUL / THE BREEZE

If a user selects "Alert Contacts," on BlueLight, it will automatically send a message to all of their emergency contacts. Users can have up to three emergency contacts saved on the app.

By **EMILY WOODS**
contributing writer

Take a look at the back of a JACard — nothing students haven't already seen, right? All freshmen were given the speeches during 1787 Orientation: in a dangerous situation, refer to the list of contacts on the JACard and dial the number for JMU or Harrisonburg/Rockingham Police for immediate emergency response.

But what if students don't have time to fumble around for their JACards? What if they had put all their personal belongings in another room? What if, for whatever reason, they can't recall where they last had their card? Such were the questions running through the mind of Preet Anand, founder of the new iOS/Android app BlueLight.

BlueLight was created for college students who want to ensure their own safety when they are out having fun at any hour. Due to student demand, JMU recently began supporting the app. By using their JMU email address, students can log in and set up information.

"Students wanted the app so that they would feel safer around JMU's campus and that it would give them a quick way to get help if a party situation turned sketchy," Anand said.

The app lets users program three emergency contacts into the BlueLight startup screen. If trouble occurs, open BlueLight and select "Alert Contacts" and an urgent message will automatically be sent to each of them with the user's GPS location and a cry for help.

Under "Settings," there is a "Pick your school" alphabetized menu where JMU is now listed. Selecting this will unlock the "Campus Safety" feature, which, when enabled, will connect to a 24-hour

dispatcher with the JMU Police.

Many students on campus haven't heard about BlueLight, but admit the app has its pros and cons.

DeShondra Dandridge, a sophomore history major, thinks the app could be beneficial to her safety and the safety of her peers.

"This could be a good thing," Dandridge said. "If you couldn't reach the emergency blue-light stations on campus or you needed to discreetly notify the cops you needed help, this could make it a lot easier."

She also believes it's an easy way to contact authorities inconspicuously.

"You could easily be in a situation where you wouldn't want to attract attention by talking into the phone," Dandridge said. "The use of the BlueLight app could likely have the appearance of an innocent 'time check.'"

Junior computer science major Brandon McMIndes, thinks the app won't be popular and most likely won't get many downloads.

"You should just get a Life Alert Button," McMIndes said. "Only a small number of people would need this app."

McMIndes thought the concept was just as simple as dialing 9-1-1 and just another excuse for a download. McMIndes suggests we could be delving too far into effortless "communication" in our growing technological society.

BlueLight's website, getbluelight.com, also claims the app works to contact emergency services when phone services are down.

To download BlueLight, go to the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

CONTACT Emily Woods at
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SYRIA | Violence continues

from front

way, and, for that reason, a military intervention would not be the best response method in Syria.

"I don't see internal reflection in today's modern society much at all anymore," he said. "If anything, I think we should start there."

He stressed a more creative, diplomatic and at the very least, non-violent approach.

"If Ghandi were here, he would not make a move until he had a deep spiritual reflection. I'm a believer in that, and I'm living testimony that non-violence can work."

A peaceful, non-violent resolution in Syria was the focal point of the vigil, and historical evidence from Iraq and Afghanistan was drawn upon by most of the speakers, including Muawia Dames, a 1994 alumnus. He called a military response a recipe for failure.

"We may not have the right answer yet, but we know that military intervention is the wrong one," Dames said.

The speakers and the attendees were a diverse group, which Dames saw as a strength.

"I think we need to view all of the perspectives before casting judgment," he said. "Elevating the voices of everyone is what it is all about. This affects us all. It's about humanity, and we need to support humanity."

By sundown, the vigil transformed from a conversation, to a somber, serene scene, with a candlelight walk around the courthouse and

spontaneous singing. Some people read poetry, both personally written or from famous poets. Martin was touched by the community's response.

"We might not have the right answer yet, but we know that military intervention is the wrong one."

Muawia Dames
'94 JMU alumnus

"This kind of turnout is not only impressive, but it's gratifying," he said. "We put this vigil together only two days ago, and to have this many people come out, it's truly a blessing."

Dames also appreciated the turnout, and has hopes that this will spark an interest in the community and bring more people out to speak up and let their voices be heard.

"There weren't too many younger folks here tonight," he said. "So hopefully, the ones that were here can spread the word to their friends, and if the older crowd can do the same, our small, local voice can be heard farther than just Harrisonburg."

CONTACT Mark Overstreet at
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IDENTITY | Gender labels seen as having both positive and negative attributes

from front

judgment by those who don't identify with the same label.

Sarah Hogg, the educational coordinator for Madison Equality, said people often make inaccurate assumptions about her because of her sexuality.

"I've had people say, 'Oh, so you're like, sexually promiscuous because you're attracted to more than one gender — you must sleep with them all,'" said Hogg, a junior anthropology major.

Hogg said people also make incorrect assumptions about her sexuality based on her appearance.

"One thing I don't like is that people always just assume that I'm straight," Hogg said. "People look and because I have long hair, or because I dress or act feminine, they just assume that I'm straight."

Mia Wenzel, a sophomore philosophy and religion and anthropology double major, said she's even experienced discrimination from other members of the LGBT community. Wenzel said since she thinks everyone's experience and definition of their own sexual orientation is different, it's disheartening when people try to push their own definitions and labels onto others.

"I had a gay friend, before I came out to him, he said that bisexual

people just needed to pick a side, which is something that a lot of bisexual people tend to come across," Wenzel said. "There's such a prevalent idea of there's gay and there's straight, so middle identities confuse them. It's frustrating — it becomes really hard."

Ochs has identified as bisexual for 38 years and has now been married to her wife, Peg, for 16 years. But she said in the beginning when she came out to herself as bisexual, even she had absorbed some of the negative stigmas associated with LGBT people.

"I had a lot of internalized homophobia," Ochs said. "My fear was worse than reality turned out to be ... I really believed that there was something to be ashamed of, and now I've learned that love is love, and anyone who has the fortune to fall in love should be very happy."

Despite the negativity, Wenzel said she's found some major advantages to using labels. She was able to find a "safe place," for herself in the bisexual community as an active blogger. She also said labels can be both liberating and empowering.

"Sometimes people think that the term 'bisexuality' is constricting, but I actually think it's very freeing," Wenzel said. "Instead of pansexual where I'm attracted to all, or queer, I'm attracted to one gender, I'm bisexual,

so I'm attracted to both similar and different genders."

Ochs shared a similar viewpoint she called "intersectionality," or the idea that each person defines themselves according to many different identities, not just their sexual orientations. Rather, she said, a person's sexual orientation is just one of many other identities such as race, location, upbringing and religion.

These identities, Ochs said, all interact with each other and create an individualized experience.

"We assume that everyone that shares one of those layers of identity, all have the same experience," Ochs said. "You've heard statements like that — 'All us lesbians, we all —' or 'All us Christians, we all —.' I think 'We all' is very dangerous. That's one thing that I'm clear on, that I can't universalize my experience."

Although society still holds a sense of homophobia and heterosupremacy, Ochs said the situation is improving. She encourages members of the LGBT community to share their own stories.

"It takes a lot of work to embrace yourself — that who you are is a gift," Ochs said. "More and more people need to tell who they love who they are."

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Level 7-Mon. 4-5:30 & Thurs. 4-5:30
Level 8-Mon. 6:30-8 & Thurs. 6:30-8

Tap & Musical Stage

ADULT TAP & MUS. STAGE, Wed. 8-9
ADV. TAP, Level 6/7, Wed. 6-7
ADV. TAP, Level 7/8, Thurs. 8-9
ADV. MUS. STAGE, Wed. 6-7

African Dance

ADULT/TEEN AFRICAN, Sat. 10-11

Modern Dance

ADULT MODERN, Tues. 7:30-8:30
ADV. MODERN, Level 6/7, Wed. 8-9
ADV. MODERN, 7/8, Tues. 7:30-8:30

Hip-Hop and Jazz

TEEN/AD. JAZZ/HIP-HOP, Thurs 8-9
ADV. HIP-HOP, 6/7, Tues. 7:30-8:30
ADV. HIP-HOP, 7/8, Tues. 8:30-9:30
ADV. CLASSIC JAZZ, 6/7, Mon 5:30-6:30
ADV. CLASSIC JAZZ, 7/8, Mon. 8-9

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KRISTEN BAKER | contributing columnist

Laptop, textbook and a beer

More homework won't stop students from drinking on weekends

It's only September and some of you may already have your Halloween costume planned and perfected. However, it's possible you might have to put that outfit back up on the hanger this year if professors take Madison Teaching Fellows for Alcohol and Academic Culture's advice.

According to last Thursday's *Breeze* article, "a message was sent out to all faculty via MyMadison from the Madison Teaching Fellows for Alcohol and Academic Culture suggesting that faculty consider scheduling assignments around 'high-risk weekends,' or weekends when students might be inclined to drink heavily."

The group's aim is to curb excessive drinking on weekends that students are inclined to go out and drink on, including Halloween, Saint Patrick's Day and home football games.

Carol Hurney, a biology professor and director for Faculty Innovation, claimed that, "the purpose of the message is not to enforce rules on faculty or overwhelm students. Rather, the proposal is a way to strengthen the relationship between faculty and students." Yet, I can confidently say that it will do quite the opposite.

Students will resent their professors if they try to force their students out of drinking behavior on "high-risk weekends" simply by laying down heavy coursework specifically scheduled around such events. It almost seems like an abuse of power in a way that treats students in a very childish manner.

Faculty may have our best interests in mind, but we are adults and are very capable of making our own decisions—even if they may turn out to be bad ones. One of the glorious things about being young adults is that we can take our mistakes and learn from them.

Katherine Ott Walter, a former member, said, "if the university requires studying and papers and harder classes, then ideally you would see high-risk consumption go down, because the individuals are more concerned about their grades." But that

cause-and-effect scenario seems a little too good to be true.

Some students may sacrifice their weekend festivities for an assignment, but that will not be the case for all. Instead, more studying requirements and weekend papers are going to lead to more all-nighters, sloppier work and stressed-out students. In order to avoid having to forfeit celebration on a favorite holiday, students will rush their projects into one, long night of work, sacrificing not only sleep, but also quality and their grade.

Additionally, Ott Walter said, "that's kind of the basic thing we were doing — just raising awareness that some of our students engage in high-risk drinking behavior. We can't police 20,000 people, but we just want to educate and to raise awareness on the safety issues." And, personally, I find that's the approach we should be taking—education not obligation.

It's important that students do know the effects alcohol can have on their bodies and if their behavior is considered high-risk or not. Students should know that there are resources here on campus, such as "Here to Help", if they do feel they are struggling with problems such as alcohol abuse. Excessive alcohol consumption is not something to be overlooked and it's evident that high-risk behavior does exist at JMU, especially after the events during Springfest.

However, how we advance toward a solution should not be through a forced workload targeted around specific weekends, but rather education that leads students to make their own, informed decisions.

Professors and parents alike aren't always going to be around to discourage bad behavior and, after all, "we are a community committed to preparing students to be educated and enlightened citizens."

Kristen Baker is a junior media arts and design major. Contact Kristen at bakerkl@dukes.jmu.edu.

DARTS & PATS

Darts & Pats are anonymously submitted and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions creatively depict a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth.

Submit Darts & Pats at breezejmu.org

A **"thank-you-for-always-being-there"** pat to my friends who understand that I get super emotional around 9/11 every year, even though I was lucky and my dad came home that day.

From a senior who will never fail to appreciate your love and just how blessed she is.

An **"I'm-so-freaking-sorry"** pat to the woman I almost ran over.

From a guy who truly felt bad about it and is so glad that you got out of the way in time.

A **"dressed-to-the-nines"** pat to all of the women who take the time to look nice.

From a guy who appreciates how respectable you look and thinks it's more attractive than short shorts.

A **"you-are-a-disgusting-jerk"** dart to the nasty person who left a huge wad of spit in the HHS stairwell on Monday.

From a Duke who loves this beautiful campus and can't believe your disrespect of the cleaning staff and fellow Dukes.

A **"you're-the-best"** pat to all the Dukes who have offered to carry my backpack, raced to open doors for me and tried to help me in any way possible.

From a student on crutches.

A **"you-ladies-look-good-on-brooms"** pat to all the women who joined the Quidditch team.

From a veteran player who will appreciate having subs.

A **"da-Bears"** pat to the guy wearing a Hester jersey on campus Monday.

From a woman who didn't even think to wear her Forte one.

A **"you-decided-to-put-them-in-a-cage"** dart to the new apartment complex for thinking that students wouldn't act like locked-up animals.

From a student who decided not to live in a zoo.

A **"nice-guys-do-exist"** pat to the guy who offered his seat to me when he saw I couldn't reach the bar on the bus.

From a woman who is too short for her own good and really appreciated the offer.

A **"they-STILL-stand-for-so-much"** pat to the PIKES at Left Aid for making it such a friendly and comfortable place to be.

From a current Left Aid goer who knows that fraternity has some amazing role models and doesn't get enough credit.

An **"it's-time-to-let-go"** dart to the summer heat.

From a flustered student who doesn't have the hair or deodorant for this kind of weather.

A **"thanks-for-going-out-of-your-way-to-help"** pat to Kevin for assisting a man who had fallen at the Valley Mall to his car and following him to Sunnyside to make sure he was OK.

From a very impressed JMU employee (please message breezeopinion@gmail.com so he can thank you).

An **"it's-all-uphill-from-here"** dart to senior year and the Warren hill.

From a student who struggles with both on a daily basis.

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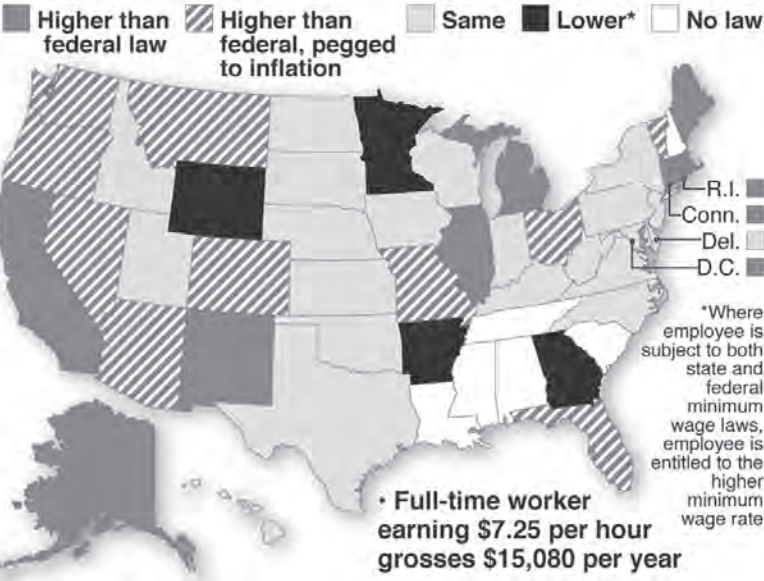
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Should we raise minimum wage?

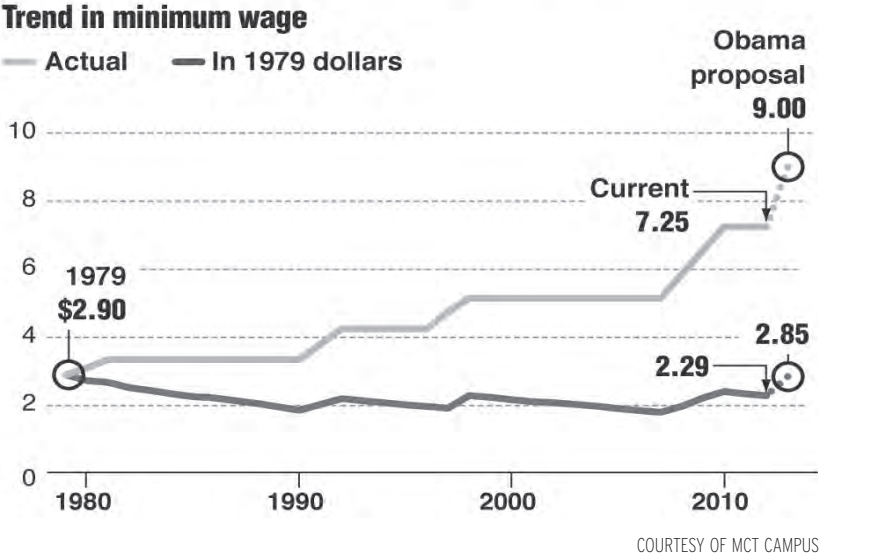
Minimum wages vary by state

How state minimum wage laws differ from the federal law of \$7.25 an hour:



Lagging minimum wage

President Barack Obama has proposed raising the federal minimum wage to \$9, or more than triple the level in 1979. Adjusted for inflation, however, the wage never has surpassed that level of buying power.



SCOTT JOHNSON | contributing columnist

Supersize my wallet:
increasing paychecks is a matter of respect for hard work

The biggest service industry strike is currently sweeping across 60 cities with one universal demand. Fast food employees want their pay raised to \$15 per hour, nearly doubling the national average of minimum wage. Since the cost-of-living in the United States increases each year, I believe these employees are entitled to every cent.

Working for companies such as McDonald's, KFC, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut has never been regarded as a quality career choice. I'm always hearing negative stories of people working in the service industry and, recently, some fast-food companies have been implementing devious ways to harm employees by placing paychecks in the form of company-mandated debit cards. Even though a study from the Economic Policy Institute has noted a 25 percent rise in productivity from 2000 to 2012, most of these companies do not want to raise the income for minimum-wage workers.

The best example of companies being unaware of the cost of living is the laughable budget plan McDonald's introduced for its employees. The plan does not include the cost of food or gas and believes \$20 a month is enough for health insurance. The most ludicrous notion of all is that McDonald's expects workers to have a second job to keep a balanced budget. A second job should not be required for a person to scrape by. It's ironic that these workers require so much extra help to get by, as the *Los Angeles Times* notes that 13 percent of fast food employees need to rely on food stamps to feed their families.

I'm tired of corporations selling the mantra that the best way to get through tough times is to "pull yourself up from your bootstraps" and

work harder. As noble as the saying is, working harder to solve the issue isn't effective when the system is broken. The United States needs to do something to compensate for working in such a high-demand job. In countries like England, employees in the service industry can be paid up to the equivalent of \$20 an hour, so customers do not have to spend extra money on tips. This system gives more job security to the workers, rather than relying on the generosity of the patrons.

You can really understand why the strike is taking place when you research the economic statistics. "The median age in the fast-food industry is older than 28 and more than one-quarter of fast-food workers are raising at least one child," according to *The Milwaukee Courier*. Not even every worker makes the full amount of minimum wage as claimed by thinkprogress.org. The website states "Forty-two percent of minority workers in the fast-food industry are primarily made up of women and are paid 60 percent less than their male counterparts."

Clearly, the modern fast-food worker is not the teenager who just wants to earn a bit of extra spending money.

This strike is a plea for simple, human decency. The 500,000 people who cook breakfast, lunch and dinner for the people on the go deserve the money to buy food for their families. The United States won't be respected for its hard work ethic if the people who work the hardest are ignored and unsupported.

Scott Johnson is a senior writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact Scott at johnsosp@dukes.jmu.edu.

NATALIE JOHNSON | The Breeze

More money, more problems:
raising minimum wage won't solve the nation's economic crisis

In 2009 the U.S. hit a 10 percent unemployment rate, an all-time high during the recession. Over the past two years fast-food companies have added more than 560,000 jobs to the economy according to the National Restaurant Association, creating jobs twice as fast as the U.S. average, helping to drop the nation's unemployment rate to today's still-too-high 7.3 percent.

Fast-food workers, largely driven by union service officials, have been staging protests across the country, demanding a "livable" minimum wage raise to \$15 an hour. The employees claim that they are entitled to this raise, despite the fact that their job market value has remained the same; and that fast-food executives "owe" it to them — never mind the vast amount of jobs these companies have provided for previously unemployed Americans.

Take McDonald's for example, if the federal minimum wage is nearly doubled to \$15 an hour the company is expected to lose more than \$8 billion — a hit that no business executive or CEO is going to take without first exhausting all other options to save their profit. So who would feel the impact?

The very workers who are demanding this detrimental pay raise, those who are still without a job and the consumer. Rather than allowing this pay increase affect their profits, business owners will be forced to offset the cost by cutting hours and demoting workers to part-time positions (which in turn counteracts the value of an increased salary), firing current employees or ceasing to hire new employees altogether.

Fast-food executives also plan to offset the cost in the form of price increases. Say goodbye to your \$1 McDoubles and 80-cent Coke; the consumer will now have to pay a steeper amount for a product that is regularly sought out for its cheap deal. The cost of living increases every year, so

why stimulate that increase by forcing business owners to hike up their prices?

Doubling the minimum wage wouldn't simply result in lost jobs and increased prices, but would also constrict upward mobility both within and outside of a company. First, if fast-food businesses stop hiring as often, people will struggle to gain any experience. Without experience you cannot move up the career ladder. Second, if owners are forced to pay their entry-level employees double what they do now, opportunities for promotion will become slimmer and future pay raises few and far between.

Entry-level fast food jobs are not meant to be full-time careers. They serve as stepping-stones toward higher paying positions, which cannot be attained if workers aren't even given the opportunity to move their way up.

Not only this, but a minimum wage increase ignores the basic supply and demand concepts of a free-market system. Employees are paid based on their productivity, efficiency and skill set. If an employee's productivity remains unchanged, why should their cost value be more than doubled? This pay increase would only hinder efficiency, as employees would be paid double to do the exact same task they did previously.

Fast-food businesses thrive off of their cheap prices and efficient delivery. Take away both and what do they have to market? Low quality and overpriced food? The economy is still in a sluggish recovery; let's not hinder it further by pushing for policies that eliminate jobs and hurt businesses.

Natalie Johnson is a junior media arts and design and political science double major. Contact Natalie at johns4na@dukes.jmu.edu.

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— JAMES MADISON, 1800

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The Breeze reserves the right to edit submissions for length, grammar and if material is libelous, factually inaccurate or unclear. The Breeze assumes the rights to any published work. Opinions expressed in this page, with the exception of editorials, are not necessarily those of The Breeze or its staff.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted in print or via e-mail and must include name, phone number, major/year if author is a current student (or year of graduation), professional title (if applicable) and place of residence if author is not a JMU student.



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INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR
THE COMMONS
12:00-5:00 PM

MADISON COLLABORATIVE:
THE ETHICS OF NATIONAL BORDERS
TAYLOR 405
4:00 PM

THE STORY OF A TREE:
CREATIVITY, HUMOR AND PROTEST IN TURKEY
TAYLOR 405
7:00 PM

TUESDAY 9/24

I-WEEK PHOTO CONTEST UNVEILING
PRISM GALLERY, FESTIVAL
4:00 PM

WHEN BORDERS DIVIDE US
TAYLOR 405
4:00 PM

STUDENT DEBATE
GRAFTON STOWALL
7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY 9/25

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS:
A STUDENT PANEL
TAYLOR 405
4:00 PM

WITHOUT A FIGHT:
DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING WITH PRODUCER BETH-ANN KUTCHMA
GRAFTON STOWALL
4:00 PM

CONCERT: BEYOND BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES
CONCERT HALL, FORBES CENTER
8:00 PM

THURSDAY 9/26

STUDY ABROAD FAIR
GRAND BALLROOM, FESTIVAL
11:00-3:00 PM

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS:
MEANING OF BOUNDARIES WHEN VIOLENCE AND PAIN ARE INVOLVED
TAYLOR 405
7:00 PM

FRIDAY 9/27

THE JAZZ AFRICAN MUSIC CONNECTION - A WORKSHOP
FEATURING AMADOU KOUTATE
LOCATION TBD
10:00-11:00 AM

CLOSING CEREMONY WITH MUSICIAN AMADOU KOUTATE
THE COMMONS
12-1:00 PM

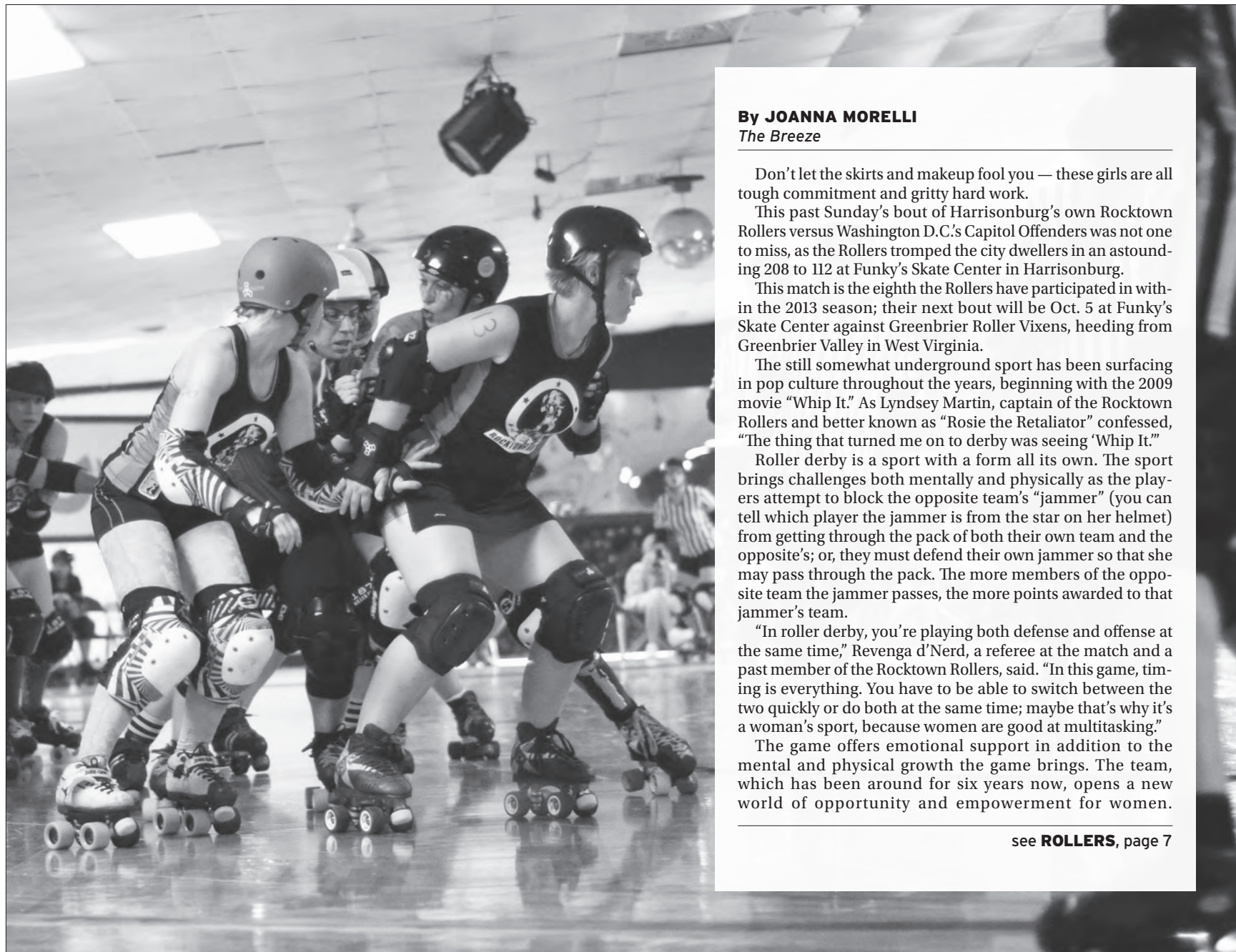
SATURDAY 9/28

WORLD CUP SOCCER TOURNAMENT
TAYLOR FIELD, VINE
6:00-7:00 PM

HARRISONBURG INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
HILLMAN PARK, HARRISONBURG
12:00-6:00 PM

Rolling with the punches

Rocktown Rollers keep it fierce in the most rough-and-tumble sport on wheels



By JOANNA MORELLI
The Breeze

Don't let the skirts and makeup fool you — these girls are all tough commitment and gritty hard work.

This past Sunday's bout of Harrisonburg's own Rocktown Rollers versus Washington D.C.'s Capitol Offenders was not one to miss, as the Rollers tromped the city dwellers in an astounding 208 to 112 at Funky's Skate Center in Harrisonburg.

This match is the eighth the Rollers have participated in within the 2013 season; their next bout will be Oct. 5 at Funky's Skate Center against Greenbrier Roller Vixens, heading from Greenbrier Valley in West Virginia.

The still somewhat underground sport has been surfacing in pop culture throughout the years, beginning with the 2009 movie "Whip It." As Lyndsey Martin, captain of the Rocktown Rollers and better known as "Rosie the Retaliator" confessed, "The thing that turned me on to derby was seeing 'Whip It.'"

Roller derby is a sport with a form all its own. The sport brings challenges both mentally and physically as the players attempt to block the opposite team's "jammer" (you can tell which player the jammer is from the star on her helmet) from getting through the pack of both their own team and the opposite's; or, they must defend their own jammer so that she may pass through the pack. The more members of the opposite team the jammer passes, the more points awarded to that jammer's team.

"In roller derby, you're playing both defense and offense at the same time," Revenga d'Nerd, a referee at the match and a past member of the Rocktown Rollers, said. "In this game, timing is everything. You have to be able to switch between the two quickly or do both at the same time; maybe that's why it's a woman's sport, because women are good at multitasking."

The game offers emotional support in addition to the mental and physical growth the game brings. The team, which has been around for six years now, opens a new world of opportunity and empowerment for women.

see **ROLLERS**, page 7

JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

The Rocktown Rollers attempt to block a jammer from the Washington D.C. Capitol Offenders during their bout at Funky's Skate Center on Sunday. The Rollers defeated the Offenders 208 to 112.

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A motion for music

Jazz ensemble fundraises for legal counsel to help the underprivileged



JILLIAN PAUL / THE BREEZE

By JOANNA MORELLI
The Breeze

If you're looking for an event this semester featuring live jazz music, an opportunity to donate to a great cause and a chance to jam out with members of JMU's Jazz Ensemble, look no further.

This year's third annual "Jazz 4 Justice" will be hosted at the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts this Saturday at 8 p.m. The event will feature a tribute to the swing era music of the 1930s while benefiting Virginia State Bar's Diversity Conference, Blue Ridge Legal Services and JMU School of Music scholarships. Tickets will be \$15 for the general public, or \$10 for students.

The concept of Jazz 4 Justice began at George Mason University with Ed Weiner, founder of Weiner, Spivey & Miller, P.V.C.

"We were looking for ways to raise money for pro bono legal help for children who are at risk and victims of abuse; we needed a fundraiser," Weiner said. "Our courtroom is right near GMU — they have an excellent jazz ensemble, so we approached the school and asked if we could partner with them in putting together a concert."

The program has spread not only to JMU, but to the locations of Prince William County and Newport News. Weiner hopes to spread the program soon to Howard University in Washington, D.C. and Hollins University in Roanoke, Va. George Sparks, dean of the College of Visual & Performing Arts, expressed the university's openness to join the program.

"Like most everything in the college, we do things as a team," Sparks said. "So, when Ed Weiner, an attorney from Fairfax, Va., came to meet with the Forbes Center staff to see if we were interested in mounting a Jazz 4 Justice concert, we all thought it was a great idea. It was a good cause that we were happy to partner with."

The heart of the charity event lies with the Jazz Ensemble, directed by Chuck Dotas. The Jazz Ensemble has been practicing for the event

throughout the first two weeks of the semester. Dotas remarked on the challenge and difficulty it brought to his students, but also the benefit.

"If my students do gigs professionally, this is the kind of music they'll be playing — there's no rehearsal," Dotas said. "It's good experience for them to learn this music because it's professionally what is expected of them."

The concert not only benefits those receiving the charity donations and the Jazz Ensemble, but those willing to participate in the "jam session" following the concert. After the concert, a small group from the Ensemble will gather to practice and play a selection of songs with whoever wishes to join in with their own instrumental talents.

The jam session is very impromptu and should not discourage newcomers. The session will take place in the lobby following the end of the concert.

"We just have a rhythm session — so piano, bass, drums, guitar and a couple horns," senior music industry major and jazz minor Ian Greene said. "We all talk for a second and decide which tunes we all know that we want to play. Then, someone will call out something and begin."

The concert itself benefits the Jazz Ensemble and other fellow music majors. A portion of the money from the charity assists in bringing guest artists for music majors alike to speak to and watch perform.

"It's a great idea to bring in the guest artist, I look forward to it every year," Clay Trinkle, a junior jazz major, said. "We have Sheila Jordan, a jazz performer and songwriter, coming in this semester, and it really makes a difference to hear professionals like that play."

In addition to the opportunities given to both the Jazz Ensemble and the beneficiaries of the charity, the public can expect a delightful combo of eclectic and historical musical compositions.

"It's the only time of year that we play swing-era music from the 1930s," Dotas said.

"That style of music doesn't sound the same with a 19-piece big band in person as it does as a recording. You need to hear it how it was meant to be played: live. Big band has a kind of power that you can't approximate on a record."

CONTACT Joanna Morelli at morelljr@dukes.jmu.edu.

For tickets to Jazz 4 Justice, visit jmu.edu/jmuarts, call (540) 568-7000 or visit the box office at the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets start at \$10.

12

Clementine: Drinking Liberally @ 7-9 p.m.

Little Grill: Open Mic @ 8:30-11 p.m.

Blue Nile: Earthling, Zuul, Abysmal Lord and Salvaticus @ 9 p.m. (\$5 cover)

13

Festival Lawn: "Get Down at Sundown" with DJ Ryan Slocum @ 5 p.m.

Blue Nile: DJ Neals Barkley @ 10 p.m. (21+)

Clementine: New Country Rehab + Brian Patrick @ 9 p.m.

14

Friendly City Food Co-op: Fall E.C.O. Day 8-2 p.m.

The Local Chop and Grill House: The Judy Chops @ 9:00 p.m.

Blue Nile: DJ Fayo @ 10 p.m. (21+)

15

CrossKeys Vineyard: Taste & Tour @ 8 a.m.

Artful Dodger: Rawbone Smith & Ocean vs. Daughter @ 7 p.m.

Trinity Presbyterian Church: Carnival de Resistance @ 6-7:30 p.m.

Something missing? Send us your event at breezearts@gmail.com.

Rushing for dummies

A guide to the the meticulous process of joining a social sorority



Senior Julie DeV Vaughn shouts over a crowd of her Delta Gamma sorority sisters during the Bid Celebration.

By MIA CIAFFONE
contributing writer

This week you couldn't walk from Wilson to Warren without seeing "Go Greek!" on a T-shirt or slip of paper being passed out on the commons. JMU's Greek life is an active presence on campus, and this year it will be more active than ever with a record-breaking 976 potential new members for social sororities.

Sorority recruitment is a very methodical and often misunderstood practice. Recruitment is the technical term for what is more commonly known as "rush." PNM stands for potential new members. "Rounds" refers to the social events that the chapters hold when they meet and interview the PNMs. The climax of the recruitment process is "Bid Cel," or Bid Celebration, which occurs after the chapters have extended their final bids to the potential new pledge class.

The process began this year on June 3 with a \$40 online registration. The first of four rounds began on Sept. 5. For the next five days sorority row was filled with the loud chants and cheers of current members. During the first round, the PNMs visit all 11 chapters for 30 minutes each. The second round, which is 45 minutes, allows the PNMs to learn more about the chapters' philanthropy work. In between the first and second round the PNMs pick their top eight choices and, similarly, the sororities pick their top choices for PNMs. The third round, or skit round, is when the women get to learn about the founders and core values of each sorority. Voting takes place again and the women narrow their preferences down to five sororities. During the final round, the sororities share part of their ritual with the PNMs, making this round a more intimate experience. The PNMs then mark down two chapters for their final choice.

"The rush process is totally intimidating," freshman Kendall Parker said. "They say it's like speed dating. I would agree with that except you have to marry one of them in the end."

The process is time consuming and the PNMs

may not end up with their first choice sorority or in a chapter at all. "Release Figure Methodology" is a mathematical formula used to determine the number of invitations a chapter can extend for each round.

"Release Figure Methodology is used to help each chapter hit their quotas as well as help match the PNMs with a chapter they prefer," Fraternity and Sorority Life coordinator Taylor Symons said. "Unfortunately, every year a small number of women are released. This year we've released 10 out of the 976 potential new members that we have."

This doesn't seem to be a deterrent to most girls as many of them knew they wanted to join a sorority even before they arrived at JMU.

"Coming to a new school and meeting new people can be a lot all at once, but I felt rushing was a way to meet an instant group of friends and giving back through philanthropy is a very special opportunity," freshman Kendra Lerner said.

"You honestly do feel like you have found your home and you're retiring from a trip."

Kendall Parker
Freshman

Although most of the PNMs have a generally positive experience, some parts of the process are better than others.

"I didn't go into the process being super committed in the first place, and when I realized how much of a time commitment it was, I decided it wasn't for me," Hampton said. "Getting into graduate school is my priority, and I thought it would be too much of a distraction."

But what about that big celebration on the Quad with the huge colorful letters? That's Bid Cel. The PNMs get their final bids in Festival and trek across campus to meet their new sorority sisters. The Rho Gammas, PNM advisors who were disaffiliated during recruitment, can reveal their identities and the new pledge classes get to take their first picture together.

"Bid Cel was amazing," Parker said. "You honestly do feel like you have found your home and you're retiring from a trip. It was the best."

CONTACT Mia Ciaffone at ciaffme@dukes.jmu.edu.

ROLLERS | 'It's a sisterhood, we'll take you in'



Harrisonburg's Rocktown Rollers competed against Washington D.C.'s Capitol Offenders on Sunday.

from Page 6

"A lot of us grew up playing sports or grew up wishing to play sports when we were younger," coach Tanisha MacAdam, also known as player "Afro-Die-T," said. "As we got older, it became harder to find a way to be active in a team setting. Roller derby is a fabulous way for adults to come together to find the camaraderie that comes with being a part of a team."

The roller derby community is one that is growing daily and is interconnected. At the beginning of the match, each opposing team cheered

wholeheartedly for the other and many of the Rollers greeted the Offenders before the game. Sportsmanship and a sense of friendly competition are ripe in the sport.

"Derby is spread out all over the place; it's a community," referee Craig Hertzler said. "If I went to the West Coast or France, there would be some derby league I could participate in."

Above all else, however, is the sense of connection within the roller derby team itself.

"For me and a couple of other guys here who have wives or girlfriends on the

team, they call a lot of them derby widows; they say 'I lost my girlfriend/wife to derby,'" Larry Ritchie, a fan of the Rocktown Rollers, said. "It's one big dysfunctional family. It's a really good outlet."

Interested in rockin' and rollin' with the Rocktown Rollers? MacAdam said that there is always room in the family. "Anyone who wants to put on skates and try it, we have an open door policy — we turn no one away. It's a sisterhood. We'll take you in."

CONTACT Joanna Morelli at morelljr@dukes.jmu.edu.

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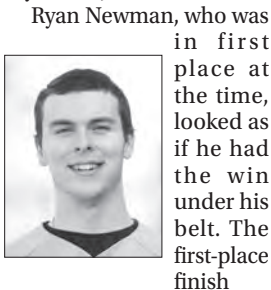
STEPHEN PROFFITT

estimated proffitt

NASCAR takes control of the wheel

Penalty for attempted crash sets precedent and shows rare but unabashed respect for sport

“Did he do it on purpose?” These are the six words that ricochet around the tight-knit racing community following Saturday night’s NASCAR Federated Auto Parts 400 in Richmond. The words were aimed directly at Clint Bowyer, whose one-car spin-out brought out a caution flag with seven laps remaining in the final race before the Chase (or NASCAR playoffs, if you will).



Ryan Newman, who was in first place at the time, looked as if he had the win under his belt. The first-place finish would’ve snuck him into the Chase by the skin of his teeth, barely edging out Martin Truex Jr. (Bowyer’s teammate). Following Saturday’s chain of events, however, Newman found himself finishing in third place and out of the Chase, while Truex made the field.

NASCAR, in my mind, is the most technological sport today. From in-car cameras to radio communication, fans know everything that happens during the course of a race. In Saturday’s case, ESPN figured out Bowyer’s spin seemed a little iffy within minutes. Even better, objectivity was almost out the door as post-race analysts showed raw frustration, even anger, at what just happened. It looked as if we were in for another media beat down over a sports organization that wouldn’t own up to what was right.

Well, in less than 48 hours, NASCAR defied all odds. President Mike Helton did what Roger Goodell, Bud Selig, David Stern and Gary Bettman cringe at the thought of: correcting a mistake.

Truex was removed from the Chase field, Newman filled his spot and Michael Waltrip Racing was left with a fine of \$300,000. With all the other implications involved in the crackdown, this proved to be NASCAR’s largest penalty in history.

In one of the greatest public relations moves of all time, NASCAR tuned up its problems.

“Thirty-nine (Newman’s car number) is going to win

the race,” Bowyer heard over his radio.

“Is your arm starting to hurt? I bet it’s getting hot in there. Itch it,” Bowyer’s crew chief, Brian Pattie relayed over the radio prior to the spin.

I never could have imagined that itching one’s arm could evolve into “actions detrimental to stock car racing” stated by section 12-4 of NASCAR rules.

Pattie denied suspicion that the communication was code for “wreck yourself,” blaming it on a poison oak rash Bowyer sported over the weekend. Rash or not, NASCAR cannot afford to sit there and do nothing. NASCAR fans are some of the most loyal fans out there, but in a tough economy, the sport is struggling to fill seats. Letting this incident go would’ve been just another chip on their shoulder. By all the press releases and accounts this decision was hard, but justified.

In a world filled with amateur bloggers, social media and sports radio, NASCAR beat the system. How long did talk go on last year following that Packers-Seahawks game involving “the catch”? Months is the answer and that was only Week 1. Imagine the outlash if that same play happened 15 weeks later and involved two teams vying for wildcard berths.

Despite ESPN picking up rights to many NASCAR programs half a dozen years ago, the growing sport still flies under the radar to many streamlined sports fans because all they do is “turn left.”

On this day, I commend NASCAR, especially Helton, for standing up and doing what’s right. It’s not often that a piece like this gets published. While I had typed out preliminary lines of criticism toward NASCAR prior to Monday, I gladly obliged to modify them as I sat there knowing that the bad guy was caught and justice had been served.

Sometimes in life it’s difficult to stand up for what is right, but remember this in the future and take the NASCAR approach: ‘Git ‘R’ Done.’

Stephen Proffitt is a junior media arts & design major. Contact Stephen at proffittjs@gmail.com.

FOOTBALL (1-1)

Hitting reset

Team looks to regroup before St. Francis game Saturday



LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

JMU lines up for a play during practice Wednesday. The Dukes ran 94 offensive plays for 498 total yards Saturday at the University of Akron, two shy of the school record for plays set in 1990 in a 29-0 win at the University of Richmond.

By CONNOR DREW
The Breeze

How do you teach discipline? How do you learn discipline? Can it be learned in a week?

For head coach Mickey Matthews and his coaching staff, these are the questions that need to be answered after suffering a 35-33 loss to the University of Akron Saturday.

JMU (1-1) had the chance to come away with the win against the favored Football Bowl Subdivision Zips, but costly penalties helped lead to a last-second clock-management debacle.

After getting the ball with 1:19 left in the game, JMU marched down the field and was in prime position for a game-winning field goal attempt. However, a pass that gained nine yards led to a small tussle between the two teams and the referee never blew the play dead, causing the clock to expire with JMU at the Akron 27-yard line before the Dukes could spike the ball.

“[Myself and the officials] disagreed how the end of the game was handled,” Matthews said. “My reaction was certainly not good ... we were very upset.”

Regardless of the officiating, the Dukes put themselves in a deep hole with costly penalties throughout the game, including three unsportsmanlike conduct penalties. One of those

penalties was charged on the final drive to redshirt senior RB Dae’Quan Scott, which ended up forcing the team to eat up more clock to try to get into field goal range.

“The thing that bothered us was that it was some older players that got those penalties,” Matthews said. “They’re good players, but it’s just something that we’ve got to stop.”

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Underclassmen in the secondary - JMU allowed 287 yards passing compared to just 69 yards rushing at Akron. The Zips scored four passing touchdowns and they averaged 14.4 yards per completion. The Dukes are starting two redshirt freshmen at cornerback. With five out of the seven CB’s on JMU’s roster either freshman or redshirt freshmen, the lack of experience at that position may be a concern.

The Dukes need to figure out quickly how to keep their cool before they face St. Francis University (Pa.) this Saturday. Although JMU is heavily favored against the Division II Flash, Matthews says SFU is “a much improved offensive team” from when they came to Bridgeforth last fall and were defeated 55-7.

“It’s kind of hard to practice

[discipline],” said sophomore quarterback Michael Birdsong. “You’ve got to prevent [penalties] from happening in practice. That’s pretty much the only way to practice not doing it.”

Birdsong, who threw for 310 yards and three touchdowns against Akron, didn’t practice earlier this week due to an ankle injury as well as a shoulder problem suffered Saturday. He was walking in a protective boot Monday, though it was off by Tuesday, and the quarterback says he’ll be good to go for Saturday.

If the Dukes want to have any shot at the playoffs this year, or even a chance at the championship, it is imperative that they don’t beat themselves like they did last weekend by earning penalties that could be easily avoided.

“It’s a discipline thing. You’ve got to be disciplined and you have to keep your emotions in check,” said redshirt senior linebacker Stephon Robinson. “I play really emotionally and I’m a stand-up guy but I’m not going to let somebody push me around ... but we’ll be fine. It’s not going to be a pushing and shoving contest out here. We’re going to go out here and try to stop them on defense and try to score points.”

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The Breeze PICKS of the WEEK



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St. Francis @ JMU	JMU	JMU	JMU	JMU	JMU	JMU
UCLA @ Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska
Alabama @ Texas A&M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Texas A&M	Texas A&M
Redskins @ Packers	Redskins	Packers	Packers	Packers	Redskins	Packers
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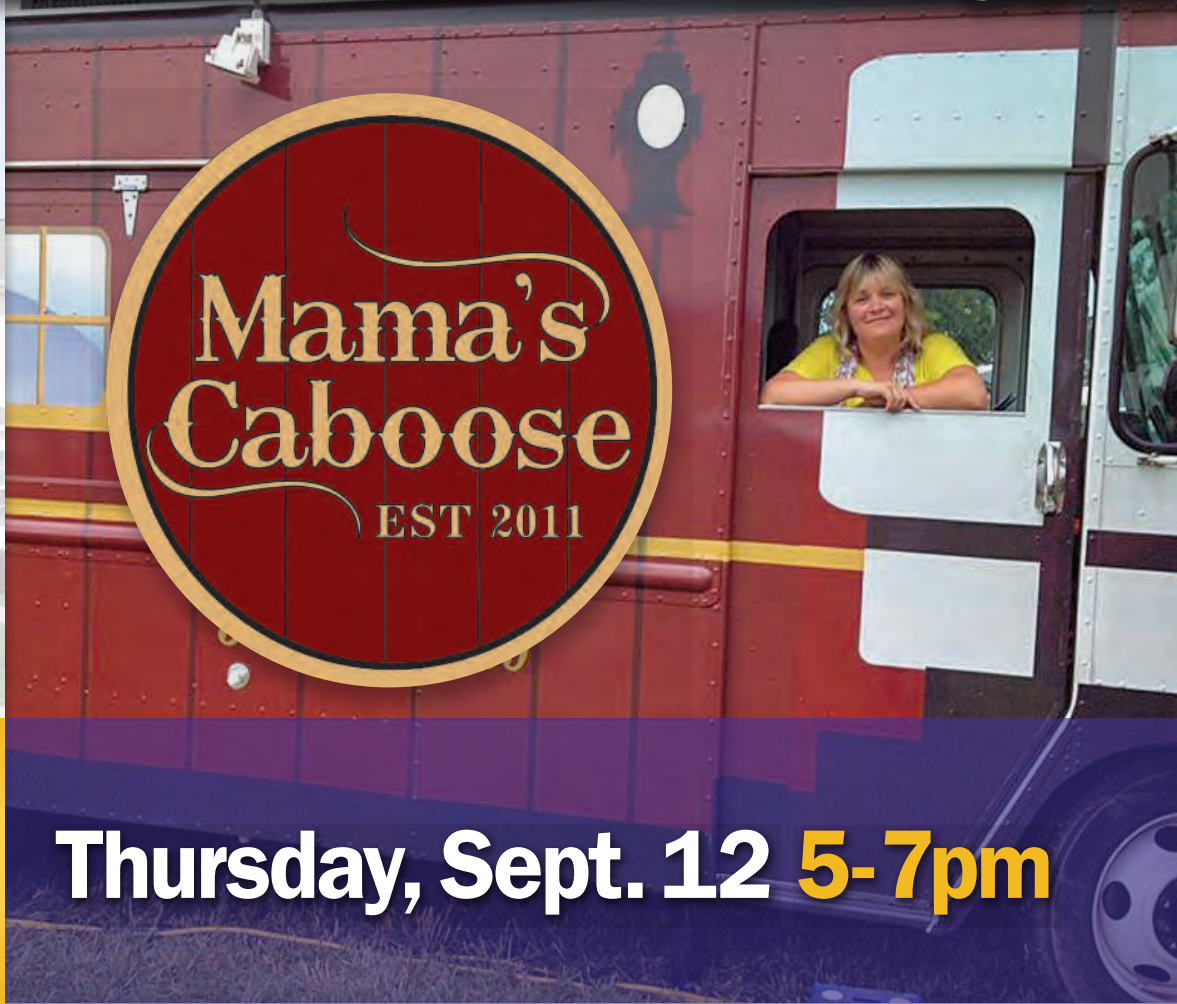
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